Mr. Balazs W. Civ. I

**Letter to the British Museum**

While the Golden Age of Greece was less than 100 years its’ impact on the world, and especially the western world, has been enormous. Buildings, including the White House and the US Supreme Court, were modeled on Greek architecture while theatres like Red Rocks in Colorado and the Hollywood Bowl were likewise based on Greek designs. Plays by Aristophanes and Euripedes are adapted and made in to movies, stories like Sophocles’, Oedipus Rex, have become the foundation for modern psychology and most every law school teaches based on the Socratic method designed 2000 years ago by a Greek stone cutter.

The Parthenon sustained enormous damage in the 17th Century when it was used as an armory. In the 19th Century while still dominated by the Ottoman Empire (modern day Turkey) a British Ambassador named Lord Elgin was given permission to remove much of the remaining sculptures in the acropolis of Athens. Athenian citizens cared little about the ancient artifacts, and often used pieces of the Parthenon for house repairs. Elgin’s pieces, now known as the Elgin Marbles were brought to London and displayed in the British Museum, their current residence. Today, Greece is a modern and developed country and wants the Marbles back, they say the Ottomans had no right to give permission to Elgin, and the pieces are part of their heritage.

Read the attached article and based on the article and the other information you have learned write a letter to the British Museum arguing for or against the return of the Elgin Marbles. The letter should be typed, with a proper heading and ending. It should be polite and respectful in tone but should clearly state a position. You must support your position with facts and evidence.

This will count as a quiz grade. The letter should be 3 to 5 paragraphs. You will be graded for your spelling and grammar, structure, facts and analysis, and conclusion.